

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 PRS-01 INR-10 INRE-00

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SY-04 FBIE-00 PPT-02 USIE-00 SCA-01

SAJ-01 USSS-00 SSO-00 /032 W
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O R 161255Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8852

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US PINT CASC CPAS CGEN

SUBJECT: ACCESS TO EMBASSY: DEAN HOXSEY

REF: MOSCOW 7281

1. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF MAY 15 ACCESS INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN-BORN SOVIET RESIDENT DEAN HOXSEY. SEVERAL WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE FILING STORY ON HOXSEY'S WISH TO BE REPATRIATED TO US AND HIS MAY 15 SCUFFLE WITH SOVIET MILITIAMEN WHO TRIED TO PREVENT HIM FROM ENTERING EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF STANDING IN FRONT OF SOUTH ENTRANCE TO EMBASSY COMPOUND AT APPROXIMATELY 1230 MAY 15 HEARD SCUFFLING SOUND AND TURNED TOWARDS ENTRANCE TO FIND FOUR MILITIAMEN DRAGGING MIDDLE-AGED MALE AWAY FROM ENTRANCE. EMBOFF IMMEDIATELY INTERNEED AND ASKED WHAT MILITIAMEN WERE DOING. VICTIM WAS CALLING FOR HELP IN ENGLISH.

3. EMBOFF ATTEMPTED TO PHYSICALLY STALL MILITIAMEN THEN PROCEEDING IN DIRECTION OF THEIR INTERROGATION SHACK AT CORNER NEAR EMBASSY. SECOND EMBOFF CAME ON SCENE AND JOINED EFFORTS TO BLOCK MILITIAMEN. EXILITIAMEN THEN EASED UP GRIP ON DETAINEE
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AND LATTER PRODUCED TATTERED CALIFORNIA DRIVER'S LICENSE,

SAYING HE LOST PASSPORT AND HAD NO OTHER IDENTIFICATION BUT WAS AMCIT.

4. AFTER FURTHER EXCHANGE BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND MILITIMEN, LATTER RELEASED HOXSEY. CONSOFF, WHO HAD ARRIVED ON SCENE, THEN CONDUCTED HIM INTO CONSULAR SECTION FOR CITIZENSHIP INTERVIEW. SENIOR MHLITIAMAN DENIED MILITIA DETAIL HAD ORIGINATED DIFFICULTY AND CLAIMED HOXSEY HAD SWUNG AND HIT ONE MILITIAMAN AT OUTSET. HOXSEY DENIED ALLEGATION, SAYING MILITIAMEN HAD GRABBED HIM AS HE TRIED TO ENTER EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES ON BASIS RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIET MILITIAMEN (THEIR PHYSICAL BLOCKING OF ACCESS TO EMBASSY) HOWSEY'S VERSION IS ENTIRELY CREDIBLE. CONSOFF ACCORINGLY PLANS TO CITE MILITIA'S CONDUCT AT MFA AT EARLY APPROPRIATE OCCASION. SEVERAL JOURNALISTS HAVE INQUIRED WHETHER EMBASSY WILL "PROTEST" INCIDENT, AND WE HAVE LIMITED REPLY TO STATEMENT THAT MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION.

6. FYI: CHICAGO TRIBUNE MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT MCGUIRE INFORMED CONSOFF MAY 16 THAT HOXSEY CALLED HIM LATE PREVIOUS EVENING TO REPORT THAT HE HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO HARASSMENT ON LEAVING EMBASSY MAY 15. MCGUIRE STATED THAT HE REACHED HOXSEY'S STEP-MOTHER (REFTEL) BY TELEPHONE, AND LATTER CONFIRMED ESSENTIAL FACTS OF HOXSEY'S BACKGROUND AS HE HIMSELF PROVIDED TO PRESS. ACCORDING MCGUIRE, STEPMOTHER STATED THAT FAMILY STRONGLY HOPES HOXSEY WILL BE PERMITTED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO RETURN US. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW07328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740121-0191
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740543/aaaablmz.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 7281
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <16 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACCESS TO EMBASSY: DEAN HOXSEY
TAGS: PINT, CASC, CPAS, CGEN, US, (HOXSEY, DEAN CORNELIUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005